

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1274

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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DEPARTMENT PASS USIA

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY PINT

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 28 GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS AND EMBASSY RESPONSE

1. SUMMARY: GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS FEBRUARY 28 IN PAROXYSM OF ANTI-AMERICANISM ATTACKS US USE OF BRITISH BASES TO SPY ON GREEK CYPRIOTS, AP STORY ON U-2 MIDEAST SURVEILLANCE, AND STORY FROM ATHENS TA NEA STATING SEVEN HUNDRED US CITIZENS ON CYPRUS PRIOR TO TURKISH INVASION TO PREPARE GROUND AND ASSIST TURKISH MILITARY. EMBASSY HAS ISSUED LOCAL RESPONSE THESE ALLEGATIONS.

2. DESPITE STATEMENT OF GOC SPOKESMAN FEB 27 TO EFFECT NOTHING SUSPICIOUS IN BEHAVIOR OF FOUR AMERICAN AIRMEN ARRESTED AND QUESTIONED BY CYPRUS POLICE AND THAT GOC AWARE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE AT AKROTIRI BASE, TODAY'S PRESS CONTINUES TO QUESTION CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AMERICAN MILITARY IN CYPRUS. RADICAL LEFTIST TA NEA REPORTS ARAB NATIONS WILL MAKE

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REPRESENTATIONS TO GOC RE STATIONING OF AMERICAN FORCES AT

AKROTIRI AND CARRIED PHOTOGRAPHS OF AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL AT AKROTIRI. PRO-CLERIDES AGHON CARRIES GOC STATEMENT BUT CLAIMS FACTS DENY AMERICAN EMBASSY ALLEGATION THAT FOUR AIRMEN WERE TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS OF INNOCENT SIGHTS. AT LEAST ONE OF THE FILM ROLLS CONTAINED PHOTOGRAPHS OF NATIONAL GUARD POSITIONS. GREEK-NATIONALIST PATRIS AND RIGHTIST MACHI ACCUSE GOC OF TRYING TO COVER UP SCANDAL. ALL PAPERS REPORT AKEL'S REPRESENTATIVE IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EZEKIAS PAPALOANNOU YESTERDAY RAISED ISSUE OF AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE AT BRITISH BASE AREAS IN HOUSE, ASKING GOC CLARIFICATION. EDITORIALS CRITICIZING AMERICAN ESPIONAGE AGAINST GREEK CYPRIOTS APPEAR IN COMMUNIST HARAVGHI, MIGHTIST MACHI AND PATRIS. ALL PAPERS BANNER HEADLINE AP U-2 AT AKROTIRI AND MIDEAST PEACEKEEPING MISSION.

3. LOCAL PAPERS ALSO PICKED UP AT LEAST PARTIAL VERSION OF STORY FROM ATHENS TA NEA CLAIMING US ACTIVELY AIDED TURKEY'S INVASION LAST JULY. ACCORDING TA NEA STORY, APPARENTLY WITH WASHINGTON DATELINE, 700 "TOURISTS" MOST UNDER 40 YEARS OLD WITH AMERICAN PASSPORTS ENTERED CYPRUS DURING TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO INVASION, 80 OF THESE BY WAY OF ANKARA OR TEL AVIV. LOCAL VERSIONS CLAIM SPECIALLY TRAINED AMERICANS HELPED TURKISH HELICOPTERS TO LAND IN KYRENIA AREA BY PROVIDING WEATHER AND TERRAIN INFORMATION. TWO MEMBERS OF ANOTHER GROUP OPERATING OUTSIDE KYRENIA WERE INJURED DURING FIGHTING. STORY INDICATES US SHIP NO. LP 1023 ALSO ACTIVELY AIDED TURKISH EFFORTS. BRITISH ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SIMILARLY SUPPORTED INVASION EAST OF KYRENIA. IN PLAYING STORY HARAVGHI HEADLINED/ "AMERICANS ACTIVELY HELPED INVASION", PATRIS: "HAVE AMERICANS FOUGHT AT SIDE OF TURKS?"; MACHI: "AMERICANS ACTIVELY HELPED INVASION OF CYPRUS".

4. IN OTHER STORIES WITH ANTI-AMERICAN OVERTONES LOCAL PRESS ALSO GAVE CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO APPARENT FRUITLESS RESULT OF KISSINGER-CLERIDES MEETING FEB 26. VEHEMENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN TA NEA CALLED MEETING "FIASCO", "HUMILIATION TO GREEKS" AND "WASTE OF TIME." COMMUNIST HARAVGHI NOTED RESULTS OF MEETING SHOW US POLICY ON CYPRUS UNCHANGED, SUGGESTED KISSINGER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN HITLER PRIZE NOT NOBEL PRIZE. MOST PAPERS CONTINUE TO PRAISE CONGRESSMEN OPPOSING KISSINGER'S EFFORTS TO RESUME ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. PRO-CLERIDES AGON CALLS BRADEMAs' REFUSAL BY SOME SENATORS TO SEEK LEGISLATION ENABLING RESUMPTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MILITARY AID ALSO NOTED BY CYPRIOT PRESS AND CARRIED AS MAJOR STORY ON LOCAL RADIO BROADCASTS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 2 AND 3 STORIES, EMBASSY NICOSIA HAS ISSUED FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN NICOSIA WISHES TO STATE THAT THE STORY CARRIED IN THE FEB 28 GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS CONCERNING ALLEGED ANGLO-AMERICAN PARTICIPATION OR COLLUSION IN THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS IS COM-

PLETELY FALLACIOUS AND MALEVOLENT. CONCERNING STORIES OF AMERICAN
MILITARY PERSONNEL AND ACTIVITY ON THE BRITISH SOVEREIGN BASE
AREAS AND RELATING TO MIDDLE EAST PEACEKEEPING, THE EMBASSY
REPEATS THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS OF AN OPEN NATURE AND KNOWN TO
ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.
UNQUOTE.

6. BRITISH DO NOT INTEND ISSUE STATEMENT BUT IF ASKED WILL REFER
TO OURS AND NOTE FACTUALITY OF AP STORY ON MIDEAST SURVEILLANCE.

7. ASSUME AMEMBASSY ATHENS HAS ALREADY REQUESTED DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN ISSUE ADDITIONAL STATEMENT AT FEB 28 NOON BRIEFING
SHOOTING DOWN PARA 3 ALLEGATIONS. WE WOULD SUPPORT THIS.
CRAWFORD

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